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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/562,473

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Geert Heyse

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EXAMINER

MARINI, MATTHEW G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/562,473	Applicant(s) HEYSE ET AL.	
	Examiner MATTHEW G. MARINI	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 48-53, 57, 58 and 69-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 48-53, 57, 58 and 69-74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/16/10 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 48-53, 57, 58, and 69-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishigouoka et al. (6,146,035) further in view of Niwa (6,113,294).

With respect to claims 48, 50, 58 and 72, Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer for printing, said label printer comprising at least one print head, 1a, arranged to print an image, A, on a print medium (tape); and a cutting mechanism, 6, providing a cut, C1 and C2, on either side of the region, L4, between first and second areas of a print medium, defined by L2, as seen in Fig 10, wherein at least one of said

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at least one print head, 1a, is arranged to start printing an image on said image receiving medium (tape) on one side of a cut, C1, provided by cutting mechanism, 6, and to continue printing on the other side of said cut (to print the image in the second area following the first area, i.e. to continue printing).

Note the language directed towards the label/tape and what is printed on the label/tape, i.e. "wherein the at least one print head is arranged to print a first background for one label and a different, second background for a second, subsequent label in a manner such that there is a region within which the first and second backgrounds meet to provide one of a blend between the first and second backgrounds and a boundary between the first and second background that is unclear", is not part of the claimed combination of a label printer, but rather reads as intended use of the label printer and its recited structure, i.e. "one print head" and "cutter". Therefore, the language regarding the label and its background has been interpreted as intended use language where the taught structure above is capable of performing the intended use language.

Ishigouok et al. fails to teach the cutting mechanism provides at least one cut as being a partial cut.

Niwa teaches in fig. 2 a similar printer as taught in Ishigouoka et al, where a cutting mechanism, 23, provides both full cutting and partial cutting in a multi-layered label tape.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Ishigouok et al. by replacing the cutting mechanism, 6, and tape as taught by Ishigouok et al. with the cutting mechanism, 23, and label as taught by Niwa

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in Fig. 2 because Niwa teaches in Col. 2 lines 35-37, the partial cutting capability only cuts the print layer of the tape when the printing unit prints area on the print layer of the tape.

Note the method of claim 74 is performed by the taught structure of claim 48.

With respect to claim 49, Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer for printing wherein the at least one print head, 1a, prints information, i.e. 311 and 312, on said region, L4, between said first and second labels, wherein the information is (capable, depending on what the user want printed on the tape) one of a group of an indication of tape remaining in a cassette received in the printer, a serial number numbering a label in a series of labels, and an indication of where a tab cut is located. Note, insofar as how these elements are determined or structurally defined to the printer of claim 49, the printer of Ishigouoka et al. is capable of printing information of a tape on any one of the listed group above. What is printed on the print medium is not a structural limitation that further defines the invention, but rather reads on how the recited structure is used. Therefore the taught structure above is capable of performing the intended use recited.

With respect to claim 51, Ishigouoka et al. as modified by Niwa teaches in Fig. 2 of Niwa a label printer for printing wherein one of said cuts is a full cut.

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With respect to claim 52, Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer for printing comprising a reverser, i.e. controller, arranged to reverse an image receiving material, 3a, on which the labels are capable of being arranged to be printed, Col. 12 lines 25-33.

With respect to claim 53, Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer for printing wherein said reverser, i.e. controller, is arranged to reverse the image receiving medium, 3a, from the cutter, 6, once cutter cuts at C2, to said at least one print head, 1a, Col. 7 lines 16-35.

With respect to claim 57, Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer for printing wherein the at least one print head, 1a, is arranged to print backgrounds on said first and second labels in different colors insofar as what is structurally recited.

With respect to claims 69, 70 and 73, a printer Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer wherein the printer is capable (via the print head) of printing information to a user on the region, wherein the information comprises one or more of: an indication of an amount of tape remaining in a cassette, a serial number numbering a label in a series of labels, and an indication of where a tab cut is located.

Note what is printed on the print medium is not a structural limitation that further defines the invention, but rather reads on how the recited structure is used. Therefore the taught structure above is capable of performing the intended use recited.

With respect to claim 71, Ishigouoka et al. teaches in Fig. 1 a label printer wherein one or both of the cuts on either side of the region comprises a full cut, as seen in Fig. 6.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/16/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding applicant's, specifically the printer shown in Figure 1 of Ishigouoka does not disclose first and second backgrounds of first and second labels meeting within a region. One can see from Figure 10 of Ishigouoka, which illustrates the result of printing using the printer illustrated in Figure 1, that backgrounds of adjacent labels are spaced well apart. Moreover, the argument there is no teaching in Ishigouoka of a first background of one label and a second background of a second, subsequent label blending, or of a boundary between the first and second backgrounds being unclear, the examiner would like to point out the language recited within the claims directed to the above argument reads as intended use of the recited structure. Therefore, Ishigouoka is capable of performing the recited intended use language.

Also Ishigouoka clearly teaches a print head that prints an image and a cutting mechanism that performs cutting, as described above in the rejection of claim 48.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW G. MARINI whose telephone number is (571)272-2676. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 to 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571)-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew G Marini/
Examiner, Art Unit 2854